WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for the treatment of an infection in a patient, which comprises administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a bis-peroxovanadium (bpV) compound.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said bpV compound is a phosphotyrosyl phosphatase inhibitor.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said bpV compound comprises an oxo ligand, two peroxo anions, and an ancillary ligand located in an inner coordination sphere of vanadate.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said infection is caused by a virus.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said patient is a mammal.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said mammal is selected from the group consisting of human, ovine, bovine, equine, caprine, porcine, feline and canine.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein said patient is a human.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said virus is a human virus selected from the group consisting of DNA viruses, RNA viruses and Retroviridae.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein said virus is a human immunodeficiency virus.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the bpV compound is administered intravenously, subcutaneously, intradermally, transdermally, intraperitoneally, orally or topically.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the bpV compound is administered with a patch or an implant.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the bpV compound is administered by inhalation.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the bpV compound is administered with an aerosol spray.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the bpV compound is in a powder form.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the bpV compound is in association with a liposomal composition suitable for administration.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the bpV compound is in a tablet form.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the bpV compound is administered in combination with an antiviral agent.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the antiviral agent is selected from the group consisting of nucleoside analogues, protease and neuraminidase inhibitors, interferon α, and non nucleoside analogues.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the antiviral agent is selected from the group consisting of AZT and 3TC.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the bpV compound is administered in combination with one or more immunomodulator(s).

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said immunomodulator is selected from the group consisting of leukotrienes, chemokines, cytokines, growth factors and interferons.

22. A method for the enhancement of antimicrobial efficacy of antimicrobial agents, which comprises administering to a patient undergoing an

antimicrobial therapy, a therapeutically effective amount of a bis-peroxovanadium (bpV) compound.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said bpV compound is a phosphotyrosyl phosphatase inhibitor.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said bpV compound comprises an oxo ligand, two peroxo anions, and an ancillary ligand located in an inner coordination sphere of vanadate.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is a mammal.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said mammal is selected from the group consisting of human, ovine, bovine, equine, caprine, porcine, feline and canine.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein said patient is a human.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein said antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of nucleoside analogues, protease and neuraminidase inhibitors, interferon α, and non nucleoside analogues, such as non nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTI), chemokines and chemokines antagonists

29. The method of claim 22, wherein the bpV compound is administered intravenously, subcutaneously, intradermally, transdermally, intraperitoneally, orally or topically.

30. The method of claim 22, wherein the bpV compound is administered with a patch or an implant.

31. The method of claim 22, wherein the bpV compound is administered by inhalation.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the bpV compound is administered with an aerosol spray.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the bpV compound is in a powder form.

34. The method of claim 22, wherein the bpV compound is in association with a liposomal composition suitable for administration.

35. The method of claim 22, wherein the bpV compound is in a tablet form.

36. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of an infection in a patient, which comprises an therapeutically effective amount of a bis-peroxovanadium (bpV) compound in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

37. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein said bpV compound is a phosphotyrosyl phosphatase inhibitor.

38. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 37, wherein said bpV compound comprises an oxo ligand, two peroxo anions, and an ancillary ligand located in an inner coordination sphere of vanadate.

39. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein said infection is caused by a virus.

40. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein said patient is a mammal.

41. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 40, wherein said mammal is selected from the group consisting of human, ovine, bovine, equine, caprine, porcine, feline and canine.

42. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein said patient is a human.

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43. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 42, wherein said said virus is a human virus selected from the group consisting of DNA viruses, RNA viruses and Retroviridae.

44. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 42, wherein said virus is a human immunodeficiency virus.

45. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is adapted to be administered intravenously, subcutaneously, intradermally, transdermally, intraperitoneally, orally or topically.

46. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is adapted to be administered with a patch or an implant.

47. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is adapted to be administered by inhalation.

48. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 47, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is adapted to be administered with an aerosol spray.

49. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 48, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is in a powder form.

50. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a liposomal composition.

51. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein said composition is in a tablet form.

52. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein said composition further comprises an antiviral agent.

53. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~52,~~ wherein the antiviral agent is selected from the group consisting of nucleoside analogues, protease and neuraminidase inhibitors, interferon α, and non nucleoside analogues.

54. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 52, wherein the antiviral agent is selected from the group consisting of AZT and 3TC.

55. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein said composition further comprises an immunomodulator.

56. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 55, wherein the immunomodulator is selected from the group consisting of leukotrienes, chemokines, cytokines, growth factors and interferons.